

0846 Oral yeast colonization in southern Chinese nasopharyngeal carcinoma survivors

[E.H.N. POW](#)¹, W.K. LEUNG¹, A.S. McMILLAN¹, and D.L.W. KWONG², ¹The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China, ²The University of Hong Kong, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, Hong Kong SAR, China

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) is the most common head and neck cancer in southern Chinese. Head and neck radiotherapy is the mainstay of treatment. Oral yeast infection is commonly observed after standard radiation treatment. Objective: To compare the oral yeast colonization of NPC survivors with newly diagnosed, untreated NPC patients and healthy, age and gender matched controls. Methods: 38 survivors (disease-free for 1-4 years), 40 new cases and 31 controls took part. The oral mucosa was assessed for clinical signs of yeast infection and oral rinse samples were obtained and cultured. Yeast species were quantified in colony-forming units (cfu) and identified using biochemical test kits. Data were compared using Chi-square, ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests. Results: The prevalence of clinical candidiasis was significantly greater in survivors (23.7%) compared with new cases (7.5%) and controls (0.0%), ($p < 0.01$). The yeast colonization rate and mean yeast count were significantly greater in survivors [73.6%, 1463 (SD 2011) cfu/ml] compared with new cases [10.0%, 16 (SD 74) cfu/ml] and controls [12.9%, 10 (SD 35) cfu/ml], ($p < 0.01$). *Candida albicans* was the most common yeast isolated in all groups. In the survivor group, around one-third of the patients were found to have oral colonization with *non-C. albicans*. Conclusion: Post-irradiation Chinese NPC survivors were prone to oral yeast infection. Apart from *C. albicans*, *non-C. albicans* yeasts also appeared to play a role in the establishment of the oral yeast infection in NPC survivors.

[Seq #72 - Candida](#)

11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Thursday, 29 June 2006 Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Exhibit Hall 1

[Back to the Microbiology / Immunology and Infection Control Program](#)
[Back to the IADR General Session & Exhibition \(June 28 – July 1, 2006\)](#)